

## Message Text

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72

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /152 W

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R 122251Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8732

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

UNCLAS USUN 2546

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UN, BY, RW

SUBJ: SYG COMMENTS ON RWANDA AND BURUNDI

AT UN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON HELD AT UN  
HEADQUARTERS JULY 10, SYG WALDHEIM MADE FOLLOWING POINTS  
CONCERNING RWANDA AND BURUNDI:

"QUESTION: MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN  
REPORTED KILLED IN THE AREA OF RWANDA AND BURUNDI. DO YOU  
FEEL THAT THIS IS A MATTER THAT YOU SHOULD BRING TO THE  
ATTENTION OF THE SC?"

"THE SECRETARY GENERAL: I KNOW THAT THERE ARE CONFLICTING  
REPORTS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI AND ALSO IN RWANDA.

" AS FAR AS THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI IS CONCERNED, YOU

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ARE AWARE THAT REFUGEES RETURN TO BURUNDI FROM THE

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF MAY, AND THERE WAS FIGHTING AND KILLING. BUT FROM THE REPORTS I HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR OWN PEOPLE--FROM UNDP AND OUR INFORMATION CENTRES--I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE REPORTS WHICH ARE NOW BEING REPORTED IN THE MASS MEDIA, REFER TO THOSE PREVIOUS FIGHTS IN THE BORDER AREAS OF BURUNDI.

"HOWEVER, WHATEVER THE SITUATION MAY BE, I IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. I HAD A NUMBER OF TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR DIARRA, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY HERE AT HEADQUARTERS AND I HAVE ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE OAU. I DID ALL THISE IN ORDER TO CLARIFY WHAT CAN BE DONE BY THE UN.

"I WANT TO TELL YOU IN ALL FRANKNESS THAT THE REPORTS WE ARE GETTING ARE, AS I SAID BEFORE, VERY CONTRADICTORY. I MUST MAINLY RELY ON THE REPORTS OF OUR OWN OFFICES IN THE AREA, BECAUSE THEY ARE ON THE SPOT AND THEIR REPORTS ARE OF COURSE MORE RELEVANT FOR ME THAN ANY OTHER INFORMATION WE ARE GETTING.

" YOU CAN BE SURE THAT WE SHALL CERTAINLY DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO BE HELPFUL. WE SHALL FOLLOW THE DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY. IN THE LIGHT OF THE FURTHER REPORTS WE WILL DECIDE WHAT WE CAN DO.

"THE OAU HAS INFORMED ME THAT BURUNDI CONSIDERS THIS PROBLEM TO BE AN INTERNAL MATTER AND THEREFORE, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ORGANIZATION HAS SO FAR NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY."  
BENNETT

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